

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] A number of different methods have been used to obtain lateral strain in quasi-static elastography. Some of these techniques assume knowledge about the compressibility of the tissue (for example, Poisson's ratio), and thus cannot be used for measurements in which such tissue properties are to be determined. U.S. Patent 6,270,459 to Ophir et al describes a technique which interpolates between successive axial rays or echo signals to provide a basis for horizontal displacement measurement using a correlation technique.

Please replace paragraph [0049] with the following amended paragraph:

[0049] At process block 47 the axial and lateral displacements d_z and d_x are taken from the solution of equation (3) and then, as indicated at process block 48 used to deduce, for example, axial and lateral ~~sheer~~ shear (e_{zz} , e_{xx}) being change in displacement as a function of the z or x axis, respectively, per the following equations (4) and (5):

$$e_{zz} = \frac{\partial d_z}{\partial z} \quad (4)$$

$$e_{xx} = \frac{\partial d_x}{\partial x} \quad (5)$$